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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/899,625	07/05/2001	Alan Edward Kaplan	Kaplan 2000-0225	5146

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EXAMINER

HOOSAIN, ALLAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2645	2

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/899,625	KAPLAN, ALAN EDWARD
Examiner	Art Unit	
Allan Hoosain	2645	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2001 .

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 16 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3, 6, 7, 9-11, 13, 14, 17-23, 25-27, 29, 31, 34, 35, 40, 41, 43 and 44 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 4, 5, 8, 12, 15, 24, 28, 30, 32, 33, 36-39 and 42 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 May 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 16 is allowed.
2. Claims 4-5, 8,12,15,24,28,30,32-33,36-39,42 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3,6-7,9-11,13-14,17-23,25-27,29,31,34-35,40-41,43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by **Stork et al.** (US 5,710,816).

As to Claims 1,13, with respect to Figures 1-3, **Stork** teaches a sender, 304, (coupler) having a first port, 310, and a second port, 301, comprising:

a first interface circuit, 307 to 310, connected to said first port for interacting with a receiver, 305, (telephone answering system) (Figure 3);
a second interface circuit, 307 to 301, connected to said second port (Figure 3);

an encryption module, 307, that is interposed between said first interface circuit and said second interface circuit for encrypting voice information that is received at said first port for delivery to said second port (Figure 1); and

flow diagram (a controller) for coupling said first interface circuit, said encryption module, and said second interface circuit, causing dialing (ringing signals) to be applied by said first interface circuit to said first port in response to a certifiable voice signal (verified request) from said second port to gain access to recording information in said telephone answering system (Figure 1 and Col. 2, lines 16-34).

As to Claim 2, **Stork** teaches the coupler of claim 1 where said encryption module encrypts all signals set for delivery to said second port (Col. 4, lines 16-28)

As to Claim 3, **Stork** teaches the coupler of claim 1 where said encryption module, in response to signals from said controller, encrypts some signals set for delivery to said second port, and leaves other signals set for delivery to said second port unencrypted (Figure 1, label 104 and Col. 2, lines 44-52).

As to Claims 6-7, **Stork** teaches the coupler of claim 1 where said first port is an analog port adapted for connection to a telephone-answering device (Figure 3).

As to Claims 9,19-23,25-27, **Stork** teaches the coupler of claim 1 where said request to gain access is verified when a signal received at said second port includes a correct code (password) that is recognized by said controller as bona fide (Col. 3, lines 34-37).

As to Claim 10, **Stork** teaches the coupler of claim 1 where said controller causes application of DTMF codes to said first port in response to control signals arriving at said second port (Col. 2, lines 38-43).

As to Claim 11, **Stork** teaches the coupler of claim 10 where, in response to some control signals arriving at said second port said controller modifies its operating characteristics (Col. 2, lines 30-38).

As to Claims 14,17, with respect to Figures 1-3, **Stork** teaches an arrangement comprising a receiver, 305, (telephone answering system) having an analog port, 310, and a coupler, 304, comprising:

 a first interface circuit, 307 to 310, within said coupler connected to said analog port (Figure 3);

 a second interface circuit, 307 to 301, connected to an output port of said coupler (Figure 3);

 an encryption module, 307, interposed between said first interface circuit and said second interface circuit for encrypting voice information that is received at said analog port for delivery to said output port (Figure 2); and

flow diagram (a controller) for coupling said first interface circuit, said encryption module, and said second interface circuit, causing dialing (ringing signals) to be applied by said first interface circuit to said analog port in response to a certifiable voice signal (verified request) from said second port to gain access to information in said telephone answering system (Figure 1 and Col. 2, lines 16-34).

As to Claim 18, with respect to Figures 1-3, **Stork** teaches a telephone answering system, 305 and 304, comprising:

a first port, 310,
an interface circuit, 307-310, connected to said first port and conditioned for communication with a microphone (telephone instrument) connected to said first port; flow diagram (a controller) for interacting with said interface circuit, said controller having a memory and program modules stored in said memory, including a telephone answering program module (Figure 1 and Figure 3, labels 320,309); and
an interface circuit, 307 to 301, coupled to said controller, for interfacing with a second port , 301,of said telephone answering system (Figure 1);
where said controller interacts with said first port, under control of said telephone answering software module, via said interface circuit, to store messages within said memory, and said controller interacts with said second port to (a) receive a request to send messages stored in said memory, (b) confirm that said request is bona fide, (c) retrieve a message from said memory, (d) encrypt said message with said encryption program module to form an encrypted message, and (e) send said encrypted message to said second port (Figures 1 and 2).

As to Claims 29,31,34, with respect to Figures 1-3, **Stork** teaches an arrangement for retrieving messages from a telephone-answering system, 305, comprising:

- a network, 301,
- a user device, 304,
- a first coupler, 307, that encrypts signals sent out by said user device to form encrypted signals and forward the encrypted signals to said network (Figure 1),
- a second coupler, 320, for receiving said encrypted signals from said network, decrypting the encrypted signals to form recovered signals, and applying said recovered signals to said telephone-answering system (Figures 1-2).

As to Claims 35,40-41,43-44, with respect to Figures 1-3, **Stork** teaches a method carried out in a coupler, for accessing a telephone-answering system comprising the steps of:

- receiving a message at a first port, 310, (Figure 1, label 103);
- ascertaining whether said message corresponds to a bona fide access request (Figure 1, label 103);
- when said step of ascertaining determines that said message corresponds to a bona fide access request, forwarding an alert to a second port, 301, that is conditioned to place a telephone answering system, 305, connected to said second port in a message retrieval mode (Col. 3, lines 13-17);
- communicating prompt messages received from said second port to said first port (Col. 2, lines 23-28);

communicating response messages received from said first port (Col. 2, lines 35-43);
encrypting stored messages received at said second port in response to said
response messages to form encrypted messages (Col. 2, lines 60-65); and
communicating said encrypted messages to said first port (Figure 2 and Col. 3, lines 31-
38).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gormish et al. (US 6,073,118) teach sending and confirming secure facsimile transmissions.

Laursen et al. (US 6,065,120) teach ensuring secure access to information in server networks.

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

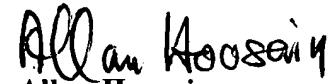
(703) 306-0377 (for customer service assistance)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Allan Hoosain** whose telephone number is (703) 305-4012. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Fan Tsang**, can be reached on (703) 305-4895.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


Allan Hoosain
Primary Examiner
9/2/03